# JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Evangelism conference reaches new highs

By Tony Martin Associate Editor

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The 2007 Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference was, in the words of one participant, "one of the best events ever. It's been years since I was so moved in an evangelism conference."

The event began with the State Women's Evangelism Conference, hosted by Crossgates Church, Brandon, on Jan. 20. This component of the event was hosted by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's (MBCB) Women's Visionary Team, the Women's Missionary Union (wMu) directors, Women on Mission, Women's Evangelism, and Women's enrichment ministry leaders of Area Five. Participants began the day at 9 a.m. for Pray Over Brandon, a prayerwalking event. The conference itself began at 10:30 a.m., which included conferences, lunch, and worship. Leadership included Jay Martin, North American Mission Board (NAMB) Heartcall leader, with music by Lori Schuler and ensemble. "If you will grow always and pray constantly, God will bless you and you will make a difference," said Martin. "The times I seem to have made the most difference in someone's life wasn't necessarily when I felt like rejoicing. God says rejoice always."

The Evangelism Conference itself began at Pinelake Church, Brandon, Jan. 21, 5 p.m. Worship was led by the Pinelake music ministry, and Lou Leventhal, a Christian illusionist from Canada, shared several illusions and slight-of-hand effects. In one, a young man was secured in a guillotine and emerged intact after the blade dropped. "I've done this trick probably 1500 times," said Leventhal, "and I've only had three people back out — but let God ask us to do something outside of our comfort zone,

and people balk."

Chris McDaniel, a country music artist formerly with the group Confederate Railroad, also led in worship and shared his testimony of how he returned to his faith after "having it all." Chip Henderson, pastor of Pinelake, shared a message on "waiting on God." "We need to set our minds and hearts for God," said Henderson, "and wait. We



STEP OUT — Scores of attendees at the Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference respond to the invitation offered by Don Wilton, pastor, First Church, Spartanburg, S.C., during the Jan. 21 evening worship service. (Photo by Tony Martin)

need to wait for the Holy Spirit of God to move on us. Nothing happened in the book of Acts until the disciples prayed." The conference resumed

The conference resumed Jan. 22, and included praise and worship led by Ronnie Cottingham, a message from Gary Bowlin, president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, and Roy Fish, professor, Southwestern Seminary, and NAMB interim president. "There is a kingdom of God," said Fish, "but there is also a kingdom of Satan. Real evangelism is the invasion of the kingdom of Satan."

Afternoon breakout sessions included Mike Greenberg, of e3 Resources and the creator of the Evangecube; John Powers, founder and president of John Ministries. **Powers** Cleveland, Tenn., and author of the I Believe doctrine series; and Fish. Other speakers for the evening included Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, MBCB; Don Wilton, pastor, First Church, Spartanburg, S.C. and David Jeremiah, pastor, **Shadow Mountain Community** Church, San Diego, Ca. Music and worship was provided by Allan Harris and Karen Fisk; McDaniel; and the Broadmoor Church music ministry led by Doran Bugg

Doran Bugg.

One high moment came when Wilton, using 2 Timothy 1:6 as his text, called on the attendees to "step out — do whatever it is that God is calling you to do," and the altar was flooded with people. David Jeremiah said, "The church is cut off from the humanity of its members, and has lost contact with the humanity outside its doors."

The Senior Adult State Evangelism rally concluded the overall conference Jan. 23. According to Glenn Shows, consultant in the Discipleship Family Ministry Department, MBCB, "We had 496 senior adults from 45 churches, representing 38 towns." Breakout sessions were led by Sonny Adkins, former state evangelism director and pastor of New Hebron Church, New Hebron, Ferris Jordan, former professor at New Orleans Seminary and co-author of Grandparenting

by Grace; Evelyn Williams, a volunteer and state prayer advocate, Hickory; and Larry Mizell, former senior adult consultant with LifeWay. During the invitation of the closing worship service, 60 senior adults made decisions. When asked what accounted for the response, Shows said, "It began in the breakout sessions, which were all overflowing. During the worship service (led by Dick Baker, former chairman of Music Missions and Evangelism, Southwestern Seminary, and his brother, Bo Baker, who has worked in evangelism for 45 years and written the words to over 100 songs and hymns) the Spirit moved." Said Bo Baker, "I've never seen a move of the Spirit like this among senior adults in my years of ministry.'

The 2008 Evangelism Conference will be at Emmanuel Church, Grenada, on January 20-22. For more information, contact Don Lum at (800) 748-1651, ext. 280, or in Jackson at (601) 292-3278. Email: dlum@mbcb.org.

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BAPTISTS



## **EDITOR'S** *NOTEBOOK*

## Who's protecting the children?

It's always sad to hear of the news of another child abused at the hands of trusted adults. It's infinitely sadder when the abuse occurs in church — yea, even Southern Baptist churches. With a recent spate of reports about child sexual abuse in some of the churches of our convention, we are once again reminded not only of our legal responsibilities in this area but more importantly, what

Jesus had to say about His pre-

cious little ones:



William H. Perkins Jr. **Editor** 

Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. (Matthew 19:14 NIV)

And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. (Mark 9:42 NIV)

**EDITOR** William H. Perkins Jr. wperkins@mbcb.org

> **ASSOCIATE EDITOR** Tony Martin tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN Matt Broome mbroome@mbcb.org

**ADVERTISING** Dana Richardson drichardson@mbcb.org

**CIRCULATION MANAGER** Brenda Quattlebaum bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

> **EDITOR EMERITUS** Don McGregor

**Baptist Record** Advisory Committee: Mack Amis, McComb James Beasley, Crystal Springs Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis Rick Henson, Brandon Beverly Pyron, Natchez Billy Watkins, Madison Dana Richardson, secretary

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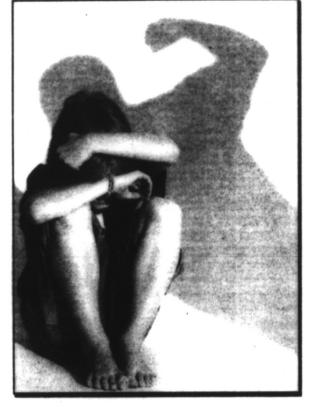
Tel: (601) 968-3800 Fax: (601) 292-3330 E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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We need to heed those strong words delivered loud and clear by our Lord and Savior. Unfortunately, that's not always the case even in our own ranks.

In June of last year, a former Southern Baptist youth minister already serving 10 years for molesting a boy in Kentucky was charged with 25 additional sex-related offenses he allegedly committed while serving on the staff of a Southern Baptist church in Missouri. The crimes with which Shawn Davies, age 33, has been charged are simply too perverse to list in a family newspaper such as The Baptist Record.
Shortly before Thanksgiving last year, Larry Reynolds, pastor of Southmont



Church in Denton, Texas, admitted to "a terrible mistake" and resigned. "I confess that proper boundaries were not kept," he said in a statement to church members.

According to news media reports, a civil lawsuit has been settled that accused Reynolds, age 59, of having a five-year sex-ual relationship with a girl he was counsel-ing that began when the girl was 15 years old. The Texas statue of limitations has expired on criminal charges.

The sordid story of another Denton-area pastor has also come to light recently. Dale "Dickie" Amyx, pastor of Bolivar Church in nearby Sanger, admitted that he paid child support for nine years and is currently embroiled in a civil lawsuit with the child's mother in which she alleges that Amyx

began molesting her during counseling sessions when she was 14 years old.
"I hated it, that it happened," Amyx

confessed in a sworn deposition that is public record. "I told her many times I never meant to hurt her, and if I did, I'm sorry. And she always said it was OK.

The lawsuit also alleges that Amyx threatened the teen with guns and knives to keep her silent, and stalked her even as she moved several times to avoid him.

Closer to home, calls for the resignation of Steve Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tennessee, grow louder as details emerge about his knowledge of alleged child sexual abuse involving one of the church's ministers that began 17 years ago, his delay in taking decisive action for six months, and his failure to notify authorities under state law.

Paul Williams, a 34-year Bellevue staffer, was finally dismissed after a special investigative committee issued a scathing report about the handling of the matter.

Starting with Paul, there appears to have been no serious consideration given by anyone to the health and safety of the Bellevue family," the committee report states. "On Paul's part, there appears to never have been any time in seventeen years that any consideration was given to the effect that having a child molester on the ministerial staff of Bellevue Baptist Church would have on the church.

These are not lurid stories from some faraway denomination or cult with which we have scant contact and little doctrine in common. These are our churches, and our children. What are the chances that similar outrages are occurring in Mississippi Baptist churches? It may not be widespread, but just do the math.

Let's get serious about protecting the children entrusted to our churches. After all, we have it on pretty good authority

that it's the right thing to do.

n the spring of 2006 1,000 British Muslims were British Muslims were polled. The results were alarming. Twenty-eight percent wanted to see Great Britain become an Islamic state. Sixty-eight percent held that Brits who insult Islam should be arrested & prosecuted.

The objective of many Muslims is to Islamicize the world. When a person or a country stands in the way of Islam's efforts, these regard it as a "war on Islam." This does not mean all Muslims hate Christians. For over a thousand years there have been many friendships between Muslims Christians. However, Muslims who have befriended Christians have disregarded the Koran in the process, since it prohibits such friendships (Q 5:51).

So what are Christians to do? I would like to suggest three initial responses by evangelicals to Islam.

· Understand that we stand in the way of Islam intentionally. We believe that Islam is a religion that promotes false teachings about God. It is the responsibility of evangelical Christians to promote the Gospel of Christ to the exclusion of the core messages of other religions, including Islam

#### **GUEST OPINION:**



## Our Islamic challenge

By Mike Licona North American Mission Board

(Galatians 1:8; 2 Corinthians 10:5). In the eyes of Muslim Islamicists, this places evangelical Christians at war with Islam.

• Love Muslims! Jesus predicted the current dilemma. He warned that false prophets would come (Matthew 16:11-12) and that the day was likewise coming when religious zealots will kill Christians and think they are offering a service to God (John 16:2-4). It is natural to feel anger and hatred toward Muslims who want to kill us. On a national level, we can support politicians who are committed to hunting down and destroying terrorists, upholding free speech, and standing in the way of Muslim thugs who declare war on everything which does not allow Islam to dominate.

On a personal level, Jesus tells us plainly what our response should be in Luke 6:27-35.

 Know that God is bringing Muslims to Christ. A few years ago, Al-Jazeera reported that roughly six million Muslims are leaving Islam and becoming followers of Jesus every year in Africa. In roughly 2005, converted Muslims Christianity in Iran. Between 2003-2005, roughly one million Muslims converted to Christianity in Arab countries. Muslims are coming to Christ in North America, too, although not to the same extent as in Muslim countries.

Abdu Murray is an attorney in the Detroit area who became a Christian after wrestling with the preponderance of evidence in its favor. He is now active in sharing the Gospel with Muslims.

Nabeel Qureshi was a committed Muslim whose father is a Muslim leader in Virginia. In 2005 Nabeel became a Christian. After being shaken by the evidence for the truth of Christianity, Nabeel traveled to Europe and Canada and met with Muslim leaders in search of answers to his questions. In both cases, he returned unsatisfied with the answers he was given. Nabeel is now in medical school and is simultaneously completing a master's degree in Christian apologetics, and has already engaged in a public debate with a Muslim Imam.

Now is the time for Christians to begin serious dialogue concerning how we may be used by God to get His glo-rious Gospel to Muslims in North America, a people whom God loves passionately.

Licona is director of apologetics and interfaith evangelism at the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Alpharetta, Georgia. He may be contacted at mlicona@namb.net His commentary, edited here for length, appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

# Prof pursues Bible truth through archaeology

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) - Steven M. Ortiz grew up in east Los Angeles, attending a Southern Baptist church with his then-newly converted father, intrigued by sermons from a pastor who regularly cited the historical and cultural background of the biblical text.

"My personality is the type that I want to touch and taste it," said Ortiz, reflecting on his journey from a curious kid to a Ph.D. archaeologist who has worked with some of the field's

foremost scholars.

The day he was interviewed in his office at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Ortiz' adrenaline was just beginning to subside from the week before, when the seminary's I. Ruth Martin Collection of archaeological artifacts, dating back to the Iron Age (1,000-586 B.C.), was rediscovered after being stumbled upon deep in the climatecontrolled library archives.

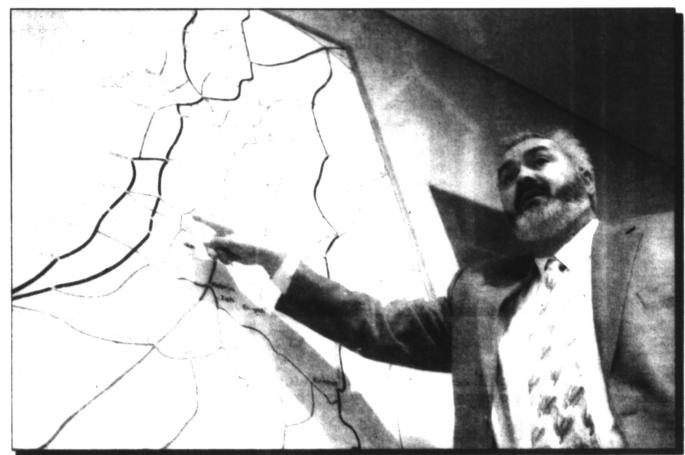
It seems the collection was inconspicuously marked, boxed and stored amid aging church music documents on a bottom shelf. Just a few days later, Ortiz was lecturing to a handful of students in the newly minted seminar room that now houses the Martin collection. Many of the 100-plus pieces of pottery, including cuneiform tablet writings, jars, oil lamps and ancient coins, were already displayed in glass cases.
The recovery of the artifacts,

which join other artifacts in the Charles C. Tandy Archaeological Museum at Southwestern, gives students a tangible sense of biblical history, Ortiz said.

Ortiz joined Southwestern's faculty last fall as associate professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds and director of the Tandy Museum, coming from New Orleans Seminary. After Hurricane Katrina sent the Ortizes to Grapevine, Texas, to be near family, Ortiz found support as a fellow professor at the Southern Baptist sister school in Fort Worth.

That relationship eventually developed into an opportunity to revive Southwestern's archaeology program, which was discontinued in the 1990s. Last fall Ortiz was busy teaching several courses and designing a curriculum to propose to the school's trustees at their spring meeting for the master of arts program in archaeology and biblical studies, with an eventual goal of offering a doctoral degree in biblical archaeology

The revived M.A. degree will be one of only two among SBC seminaries — the other is at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. — and one of the few programs at evangelical Christian schools where scholarship will include archaeological digs and exposure to some of the world's leading scholars, Ortiz said, whereas



Ortiz

most programs involve studying archaeology secondhand.

If all goes as planned, master's-level students may begin the program this fall, Ortiz said. In the 1980s under the leadership of George Kelm, now retired and living in San Antonio, the seminary participated in a dig, known as a "tel," at Timnah, Israel; many of the artifacts from that dig are displayed in the Southwestern's Tandy Museum.

Gezer: Ancient fortress

Pointing to a map on a wall inside the museum, Ortiz noted that Timnah, where students worked on the Tel Batash excavation into the early '90s, is only three to five miles from Gezer, site of the current dig involving Southwestern and led by Ortiz and Sam Wolff of the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

Gezer is on a strategic path that led from the lower elevations through the mountains to Jerusalem, Ortiz said. By the late Bronze Age [1,500-1,200 B.C.], he said, "Every time a king marched through the Holy Land, they had to conquer Gezer [to get to Jerusalem].

Scripture tells of David driving the Philistines as far as Gezer, marking it as a boundary point between Israel and Philistine lands, Ortiz said. Gezer is referred to in 1 Kings 9:15-17 as one of Solomon's fortified cities. If armies were to get to Jerusalem from the east, they would pass near Gezer. The passage records that Pharaoh captured Gezer, killed the Canaanite inhabitants and then gave it as a dowry to Solomon for his daughter, who was one of Solomon's wives.

Last summer Gezer was reexcavated for the first time in 30 years by a joint archaeological expedition, led in part by Ortiz and Wolff. It will continue in 2007 with consortium members include Southwestern Seminary, Midwestern Seminary, Lancaster Bible College, the Marian Eakins Archaeological Museum, Lycoming College, and Grace Seminary.

In fact, Southwestern will cosponsor the dig work at Tel Gezer with the Israeli agency, a shift that comes in conjunction with Ortiz' move to Southwestern. The Tel Gezer excavations have the potential to be one of the few American excavation projects in Israel that is training the next generation of biblical archaeologists," Ortiz said.

Affirming Bible history

In addressing the semi-nary's trustees last fall, Ortiz cited an increasing public interest in archaeology, such as a recent article in Newsweek magazine. "Because of archaeological research, revisionists can no longer deny the historicity of the Bible," he said. 'What they do is they change the historicity of the Bible. And so they find other Gospels. They just change it a little -Jesus being married to Mary Magdalene, etc., etc. In Old Testament [studies] there are similar trends there.

"They don't deny the historicity of David and Solomon anymore, they just change it a little. David and Solomon weren't really ancient kings of Israel; they were small tribal chieftains, or we have all the dating wrong,' Ortiz explained, giving examples of how revisionists attempt to dismiss the biblical account.

"(T)his is where my work comes in. This is where it's important," Ortiz said. "The accounts of David - are they historical or are they mythological? This is the question that's presented in most classes.

"The solution, naturally, is archaeological research."



# BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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### Looking back

Alton Foster accepts the call as director of missions for the Mississippi Association. He had pastored Bethlehem Church, Albany, La., for 16 years.

The executive committee of the Lincoln Association passes a resolution repudiating "racial slurs by public officials anywhere, any place, any time, and under any conditions."

President Eisenhower opens and closes his second inaugural address with prayers on behalf of the American people.



YOU CAN RESPOND **RIGHT Now!** 

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

#### **HEAVENLY HORTICULTURE**

Most of you have probably noticed that there is a lot of heavenly horticulture woven through the teachings of Jesus. Living in a predominantly agrarian society, Jesus knew and His listeners knew a lot about seed, plants, and the food supply that is made possible because of their growth. In our revved up, computerized, televised, and microwavable society, kids nor their parents think about plants or our dependence on them. The teacher was asking her little preschoolers, "Where does bread come from?" Several of them raised their hands, and the one little boy who was called on said, "Ours comes from Kroger's." I wonder if in his little mind he thought there was a tree somewhere that grew little plastic bags filled with bread that ended up on the shelves at Kroger and ultimately became sandwiches for him to eat.

Jesus was in tune with the plant life around Him and in John 15 He talks about us and says that the believer is like a part of the vineyard. You remember His words as He explained that He is the vine and we are the branches that go out from the vine. Simply, beautifully, and amazingly as only Jesus is able to do He pictures for us our life in Him. Let me share just three areas that He calls to our attention.

The first is connectivity. All of the nourishment, sustenance, minerals, and water that enabled the branches to do anything, be anything, look like anything, and produce anything comes from the vine. As you study John 15, you keep running into the word abide. Stay connected because if you are disconnected the flow of all of the resources cease. This incredible and undeniable truth applies to every single one of us. Regardless of how gifted you may be, how much desire you may have to do something for the Lord, or how long you have known Him, there is the ongoing maintenance, the connectivity of the branch to the vine. Without elaborating let me just mention how this takes place.

The connectivity remains intact as the believer stays in the



# Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Word and the Word in the believer. Beyond that there is the unfailing and constant association that must be ongoing through prayer. Finally, but sometimes overlooked, there is the association with all of the other branches. You will never find a branch disconnected from the vine and disassociated from all of the other branches in the vineyard producing anything. So every believer must find and closely guard that ongoing interaction with the Lord manifest in the midst of His people. Never in Scripture is our total dependence on Jesus seen more pointedly and pictured more beautifully than when Jesus says in John 15 at the end of the verse, "Without me ye can do nothing." It does not matter what you do or say or where you serve in the Lord's work. If you stay there for a while you begin to feel as though you can just do it without thought, without connecting, and without spiritually infused resources, but you cannot. You may go on for a while and sing, teach, preach, and visit but probably before you notice it others will notice that the life that used to flow through you has diminished and the leaves are beginning to turn brown and crackly. The life that used to be so apparent is not there. The key was, is, and always will be connectivity to Jesus.

The second great truth that Jesus paints for us has to do with cuttings. Jesus is talking about pruning and He tells us that the farmer or the husbandman, the overseer of the vineyard, goes through his vineyard and at times cuts out those dead, or unproductive, or no longer useful limbs. The health or the vitality of the vineyard is dependent on the overseer's selective pruning. In ways

oftentimes that we do not even notice, God is at work pruning among us and sometimes within us. There are times within a fellowship and sometimes in an individual believer that a bad attitude begins to develop. It may be a negative attitude or an apathetic attitude. It can be a silent miffed attitude, or it can be an open, outward, strident, just mean attitude. Jesus is aware of the condition of His vineyard. He comes and works among us and in us to remove those things. More often than not we may not see those things taking place for they are hidden under the skin and in the heart, but you can rest assured that Jesus knows. Later we may see the results of the presence or the growth of a rotten attitude, but long before it is ever evident to us the Lord spots it. What a wonderful act of grace, love, and mercy it is when Jesus brings the pruning shears to remove those things and deal with our condition. At the moment we may not understand and may not even appreciate His working among us, but it is always for our good and to His glory.

I remember many years ago in revival at a church a man in the church did not like the person who was going to be leading the music. He would come to the revival services and when the worship time began and we started to sing, he would get up and walk out to demonstrate his displeasure. He wanted everybody to see him as he expressed his dislike for the man and the music. He would actually go outside and stand around or sit in his car until the song service was over. Then he would come traipsing back in to listen to the sermon. In reality, the problem was not

with the music or the leader but a wrong spirit within him. It is amazing how at times we feel so indignant, so self-righteous that we feel called of God to put a rotten attitude on display. These things do not go unnoticed by our Lord, and He has His own amazing ways to deal with us to prune those things.

The third and bottom line truth that I would point out to you that Jesus brings to the forefront is continuation. His concern and his oversight are focused on the health, the vitality, and the production of His vineyard. Regardless of how big the vineyard may look, how much water is poured on it, or how many nutrients are added, if something is not being produced through the branches what is their purpose for being? While you and I can look at that as a church or even a cluster of churches, it may be most important that we look individually at our own lives and ask what kind of production is taking place that will be beneficial to the Lord or to other people. What is it in your life and how is it that God is at work producing something that will be beneficial to those around you and ultimately to heaven's glory? If the branch never produces the cluster of grapes, in all honesty you have to say that it has no purpose for being. If a believer never gives, never goes, never shares their witness, never reaches out to the downtrodden, never allows the nutrients that have been formed in their life in a cluster of godliness to bring glory and adoration to Him, and to bring a sweet taste of God's goodness to anyone else, that believer is without reason for being and without excuse.

Take a moment even now for inventory, not of others but of your own branch life related to Jesus and what it is producing, but do not stop there! Take this moment to get reconnected, pruned-up, and back on the production line for the master farmer.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

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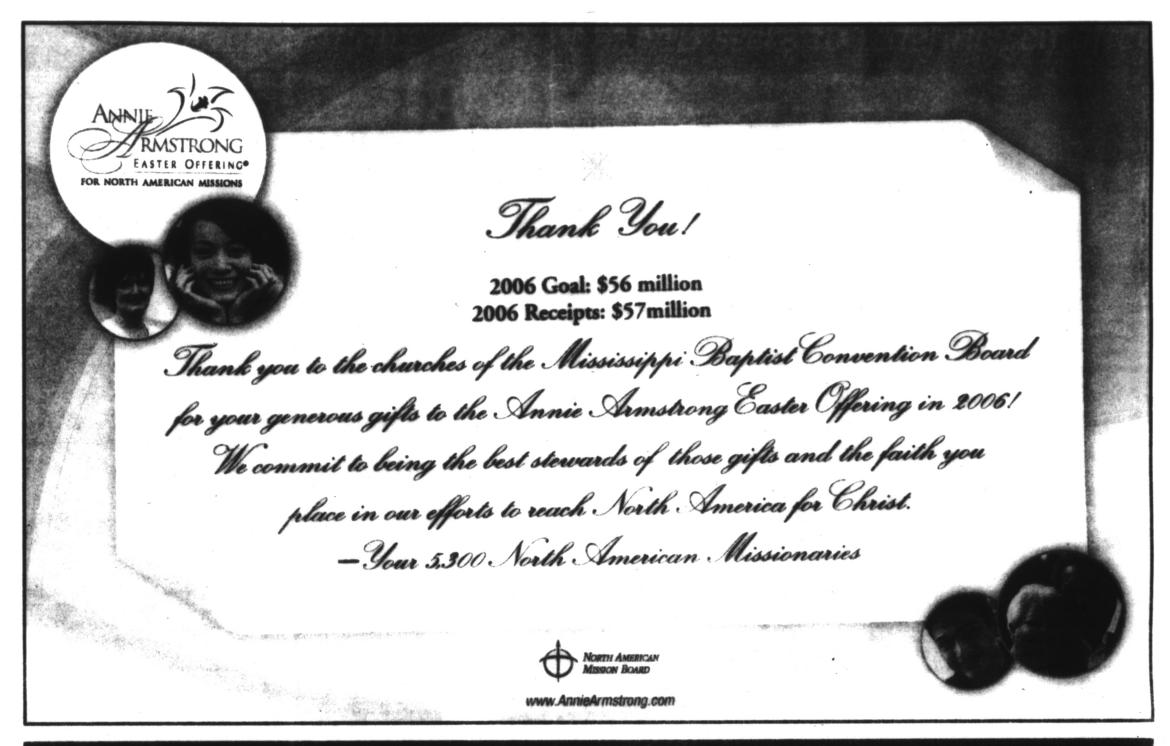
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#### COLLEGE NEWS

- 1. The William Carey University School of Education, the Pine Belt Reading Council and the Mississippi Reading Association (MRA) will present Literacy is for Everyone: A Literacy Workshop, Feb. 10 from 8:15 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Lorena Smith Hall on the Hattiesburg campus. Registration is from 8:15 a.m. uñtil 8:45 a.m. followed by a welcoming time, two workshop sessions and a break. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and is included in the registration fee. Admission
- is \$15 for teachers and \$10 for students. Teachers interested in receiving CEU credits (.5 credits) should add \$20 to the admission price. Participants are encouraged to pre-register by calling Phyllis Armstrong, lecturer in education at Carey, at (601)318-6142 or Stacy Reeves, assistant professor of education at (601) 318-6604. The registration fee can be paid at the door.
- 2. Kevin Manderville, highly acclaimed classical guitarist, will perform in con-
- cert Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University. Admission to the concert is \$7 for general admission and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information call the school of music at (601)318-6175.
- The late Vernon Dahmer of Forrest County will be honored for his heroic contributions to the Civil Rights Movement at an Inaugural Celebration announcing the Vernon Dahmer Collection at William Carey University Feb. 3 at 4 p.m? in the Student Conference Center of Wilkes Dining Hall located on the Hattiesburg campus. Carey was the first historically white private college in the state to voluntarily admit black students in 1964. As a result, the college suffered several indignities, including having a cross burned on the lawn of then president J. Ralph Noonkester's home. In 1998, Noonkester presented papers to the Mississippi Historical Baptist Commission documenting Carey's role in the Civil Rights struggle of the 1960s. A farmer, Sunday school teacher, store owner and



2. Manderville to perform at WCU

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sawmill operator, Dahmer served as president of the Forrest County chapter of the NAACP. He led voter registration drives and had a voter registration book placed in his store in late 1965 so that people could register to vote. On January 10, 1966 the Dahmer home

was fire bombed by members of the Ku Klux Klan, and Dahmer died from his injuries the following day. The public is invited free of charge to attend. The program will run one hour and 15 minutes. A reception will follow in the Student Conference Center.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Deacon Ordinations, Macedonia Church, Brookhaven



2. Deacon Ordinations, Pine Forest Church, Collinsville



3. Deacon Ordination, Clear Branch Church, Wesson



4. Memorial to the Missing Fundraiser, Lucien Church, Lucien

- 1. Macedonia Church, Brookhaven, ordained Greg Brinson and Mitchell Smith as deacons Sept. 17. Shown are Smith, David Sellers, and Brinson.
- 2. Pine Forest Church, Collinsville, ordained Tim Wheat, Chris Keene, Ken Prince, and David Sessums as deacons Nov. 19. Shown are Wheat, Keen, pastor O. Lyn Nations, Prince, and Sessums.
- 3. Clear Branch Church, Wesson, ordained Bobby Watts as deacon Jan. 7. Shown are pastor Wayne Moak and Watts.
- 4. Lucien Church, Lucien, completed its second year of raising pennies for the Memorial to the Missing. The church has raised approximately 30,000 pennies during the two years. Shown are the participants.
- First Church, McComb, recently ordained Kevin Touchstone, Philip Russell, John Brand, Wes Gaskin, Jim Khalaf, and Barry Jefcoat as deacons. Shown are the new deacons.
- 6. Pineview Church, Hattiesburg, participated in Operation Christmas Child's shoebox project, filling a record 110 boxes. Shown are the Mission Friends, GAs, and RAs. Douglas Benedict, pastor.
- 7. The preschool and children's choirs of **Ephesus Church**, **Forest**, went
  Christmas caroling in
  December, visiting the
  homes of several families in
  the community. Shown are
  the participants. Jim
  Everett, pastor.
- 8. Canaan Church, Columbus, is hosting a winter woman's conference Feb. 24, 9 a.m.-noon, featuring Rita Sweatt speaking on Jesus Prays for Us. Refreshments and door prizes; tickets are \$5. Contact the church at (662) 327-3771 or canaan@cableone.net.
- Magee's Creek Church, Jayess, will host a Winter Bible Study Feb. 4, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Feb. 5 – 7, 7 p.m. Don Taylor, speaker; Jimmy Jones, pastor.
- 10. The Plantersville Pals of First Church, Plantersville, held a community service day, collecting food for the church food pantry and raking leaves for elderly members of the church.



5. Deacon Ordinations, First Church, McComb



6. Children's mission project, Pineview Church, Hattiesburg



7. Preschool and Children's Choirs, Ephesus Church, Forest



10. Community Service, First Church, Plantersville

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

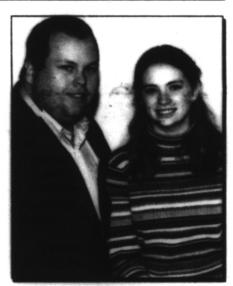


11. Baby Dedication, New Hope Church, Sumrall



12. Christmas Musical, Pineview Church, Hattiesburg

- 11. New Hope Church, Sumrall, held a baby dedication service Dec. 24, with 14 children being dedicated. Shown are the participants. Charles Broome, pastor.
- 12. Pineview Church, Hattiesburg, 1st-6th grade children's choir recently presented the Christmas musical, Three Wise Men and a Baby. Shown are the participants. Douglas Benedict, pastor.
- 13. Michael and Tonya Wilbanks, Winona, have recently been commissioned by the North American Mission Board and the Mission Service Corps to serve as Area 3 coordinators for the state of Mississippi. Shown are the Wilbanks.
- 14 First Church, Potts Camp, burned their church note Jan. 21, making the church debt free. Shown is pastor Jim Buchanan and congregation.
- Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, dedicated their new family life center Dec. 3 with a program and fish fry.



13. Wilbanks

- Shown is the building committee.
- 16. The children's ministry of Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, held a birthday party for Jesus Dec. 24. The theme was Would You Like to Give a Monetary Gift to Jesus, to be applied to the building fund. \$2430 was donated.
- 17. The choir of **Trinity Church**, **Petal**, presented Jesus, There's Something About That Name Dec. 17. The

- youth of the church gave a slide show review of 2006 along with an ice cream social Jan. 14. The GAs of the church collected enough money to buy 239 Bibles for Africa as a mission project.
- 18. First Church, Magee, ordained Jimmy Riley as deacon on Jan. 14.
- 19. First Church, Purvis, will host Chris McDaniel Feb. 21. McDaniel is the staff evangelist of Oakwood Church, Chickamauga, Ga., and was formerly with the platinum selling country music group Confederate Railroad. For more information, call (601) 794-8551. Bill Wright, pastor.
- 20. Copiah and Lincoln Associations will hold a miniworkshop for church librarians Feb. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Lincoln Association fellowship hall in Brookhaven. Peggy Tacon, Library Ministry Team Leader, Dauphin Way Church, Mobile, Ala., instructor. The workshop is free; lunch is \$5 and can be paid at the door. For more information, contact Sarah Rutledge, (601) 833-8111.
- 21. The Women on Mission group of First Church, Pascagoula, prepared small gifts to be given out at the Jackson County Association WOM meeting. Shown are Peggy Wilkinson, Betty Witchen, Nelda Broom, Ellon Yancey, and Dean Coulter.
- 22. Calvary Church, Parchman, recently licensed Charles "Chubby" Winters to the gospel ministry Shown is Jim Herman, Winters, and his wife.
- 23. Providence Church, Grenada, presented Let Earth Receive Her King Dec. 17. The church has also called Kenny Carver as pastor.

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15. Dedication, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Assoc.



21. Women on Mission, First Church, Pascagoula



22. Licensing, Calvary Church, Parchman



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## NAMB seeks to redefine self after tumultuous year

Second in a two-part series

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HPB SHXZ KZZB SR
QRWDNZEYZN, EZNS HS
HPQ SJLZ QRWD KZHDSN AZ RYZDFKHDIZB TJSK
NWDCZJSJPI, HPB BDWPXZPPZNN, HPB FHDZN
RC SKJN EJCZ, HPB NR
SKHS BHQ FRLZ WVRP
QRW WPHTHDZN.

EWXZ STZPSQ-RPZ:

SKJDSQ-CRWD

Clue: W = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Twenty Twenty-Eight.

Harris and Avant work closely to monitor growth across the SBC because their assignments are so intertwined. Church plants produce more believers. More believers lead to more church plants. "We know that nearly 74% of

all Southern Baptist churches baptize 10 or less in any given year, and the average is only three or four per church. The churches that report no baptisms really bring the averages down," Harris said. "We need to do everything we can to help churches see the lostness of their communities."

"It's a fact that we will not be able to impact all churches; some just don't want to get off of 'dead center' — but we can certainly impact the new congregations."

impact the new congregations."
Reflecting on the future of North America and Southern Baptists' obligation to their Acts 1:8 calling to reach all people, Harris said, "If Southern Baptists are not going to evangelize and take the Gospel to all people groups, then what is our reason for being here?"

Research & Development

One of the primary areas being beefed up through the restructuring is the area of research. While NAMB and its predecessor, the Home dission Board, had a research department, this area is taking on greater visibility through a development arm that is crunching information from a variety of sources and distilling it for Southern Baptist audiences. In doing so, pastors and

others are saving valuable time from going to numerous sites to read documents that may not apply to their unique situations, missiologist Ed Stetzer noted.

Stetzer, who serves as director for NAMB's Center for M i s s i o n a l

Research, said partners already are seeing results from the new emphasis. Through its portal at www.missionalresearch.info, individuals can access a variety of documents around three categories: knowing church, knowing culture and knowing community.

The "knowing church" area shares research on 14 topics such as attendance patterns and trends in baptisms. "Knowing culture" includes topics on 14 societal issues ranging from abortion to homosexuality and pornography. A Fact File for both areas contains nearly 1,600 PowerPoint slides and other downloadable research reports.

The third area, 'knowing community," includes resources such as demographics, how to identify people groups and how to locate a NAMB church consultant for further assistance.

The demographics section contains more than 30 maps and dozens of tables showing their implications for evangelism and church planting. More than 250 churches download a demographics report in an average month from the site, which has been online for less than a year.

Slightly more than 1,000 registered users frequent www.peo-plegroups info, which organizes content by country of origin and languages spoken in the home.

"The people groups site is a virtual link between IMB and NAMB and is a way of sharing information between the databases of the two [boards]," Stetzer said. The sharing of those databases reflects the narrowing of the definition between what are "domestic" and "international" missions; the two are increasingly overlapping as the world has come to North America.

For example, someone could search for information on the Quechua people of Peru, learn about their culture and value systems and connect with others working with those people groups around the world or in cities in North America. That's where the true value of the system comes into play as someone in the States goes online to learn about a people group who recently settled in their community and learns ways of reaching them through networking with others who are doing the same in other locations throughout North America or around the world.

"Missions is not foreign anymore, it's global," Stetzer said. "We need to learn to work together to reach global peo-[ples" as they immigrate beyond their native borders.



NAMB's research area will expand even further in coming months as the board adds a research and development director. That individual's responsibility will be to take raw research data and flesh it out for practical application for churches.

"Historically NAMB's research has been more focused on crunching information from the Annual Church Profile," Stetzer said. "While that is good, it's no longer good enough. We want to be a one-stop shop for individuals seeking practical information on how to reach their culture and community."

NAMB currently produces 22 research projects annually that focus on topics such as trends in baptisms and what people think of Southern Baptists. In addition, about 100 studies a month are uploaded that are culled from other sources and boiled down for easier understanding.

NAMB has made it easier to see those reports by constantly updating the list and placing it on the board homepage at www.namb.net.

Missions

While NAMB does not do evangelism or church planting in a vacuum, neither does it appoint missionaries by itself. It relies heavily on its partnerships with the 42 state conventions and the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists who share the expense of placing individuals on the field.

Much of that cost is shared through gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, which set a record high in late 2006. As of late December, NAMB had received \$57.9 million, topping its \$56 million goal. NAMB received in the first nine months of the year more than it had ever received in an entire year, reflecting Southern Baptists' affirmation of the board's acknowledgement for a strong missionary force.

Until 2006, the most ever given was \$53.8 million in 2004; the amount for 2005 was slightly less at \$53.6 million. The \$57.9 million figure is only the third time the offering has surpassed its goal in the past two decades, said Mike Ebert, NAMB's senior director of communications.

The board has 5,364 missionaries, the majority who are fully funded through the Annie Armstrong Offering. About 2,200 of those are self-funded Mission Service Corps currently receiving endorsement, training and other non-salary ministry support through

NAMB. The board also endorses chaplains whose funding is provided by their hiring entity such as the military or healthcare or correctional facilities.

While NAMB works closely with its partners to place as many missionaries on the field as funds allow, it also is pioneering new ways of involving families in mission experiences.

Families from as far away as Arizona, Wisconsin, and Michigan gathered in Lynch, Ky., over the July Fourth week to share in a Families on Mission outreach. About 200 volunteers shared in the initiative.

The new venture is more than just another mission project to help a local community, said Rick Head, NAMB's adult volunteer mobilization senior associate. It's designed to bond participating families closer together — physically, emotionally and spiritually. About half of each day is spent on family devotionals, prayer, worship, mission awareness, family small-group discussions and interacting with missionaries.

After family morning time, participants are assigned mission projects including home repairs, painting, free car washes and visiting shut-ins.

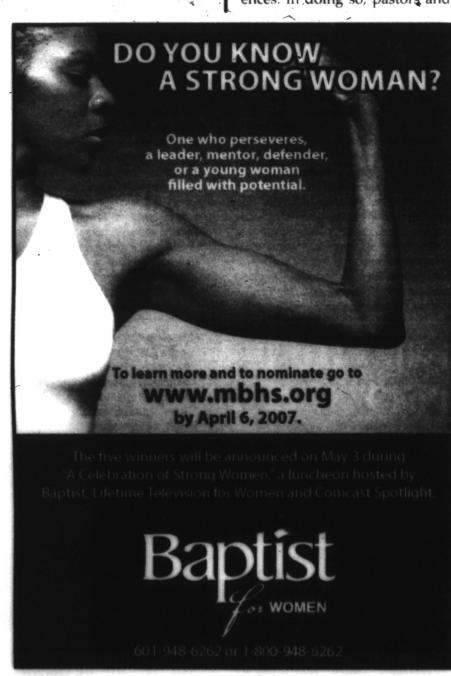
Next vear's summer projects will be held in New Orleans; Lynch; and East St. Louis, Ill. A special option for homeschoolers will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 4 in Mobile, Ala. For more information and to register, which is already underway, contact Head at rhead@namb.net or call 1-800-462-8657, ext. 6219. Information also is available by clicking on the Volunteering in Missions link at www.namb.net.

The Future

Roy Fish, NAMB's interim president and distinguished professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is confident that the board is up to the task of reducing lostness in North America through its renewed focus.

"You look at it sometimes and it almost appears impossible," Fish told NAMB staff members in September. "But I've discovered that the commitment at the board is up to the task, and I find that we are going about our work with a passion that I don't know that I've ever seen in a group of people that work in a denominational [entity] before

"I know we face a task that is extremely formidable," Fish said, "but we believe that the God who assigns us the task is bigger than the task itself."



### BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Word From God John 1:1-9, 14-17

#### By Gloria Lofton

Our study theme for the month of February Christianity is Christ. Christianity is under assault today, not just from the outside secular world, but from inside the Christian faith. Today, the major assault on Christian faith comes from the spirit of the thinking of the age. Many people claim they follow the Christian faith but they do not think it's necessary to hold the uniqueness of who Jesus Christ is.

In John 1:1, John introduces us to the deity of Jesus Christ. It reads, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' (KJV) in 1a, notice John's use of the imperfect verb, was. This is

most significant to show state of being, thus indicating the con-

tinuing existence of the Word in the past. John was not merely saying the Word predated time and creation, but that the word was eternally pre-existent — the Word always was. He was declaring the Word's distinct and super finite personality. In 1b, the preposition "with" indicates more than proximity. It points to intimate, personal relationship, not mere company, but the most intimate communion. In 1c, we read "And the Word was God." John's point was to declare that from the beginning the Word was fully deity.

"The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him and without Him



was not anything made that was made." John 1:2-3 (KJV) The Word did not come into being; He was always "with" God. "With" God suggest equality as well as association. John asserted in these verses that the Word is the Creator of all that exists.

In verses 4-9, John identified the life in Jesus Christ as the Light of mankind. As such, Jesus Christ is the true light and gives light to everyone. In verse 5a, notice how John switched to the present tense from past tense. By doing so, he indicated that the light of the world continually constantly shines. Verse 5 says, "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not (cf 3:19) the nature of darkness (evil) is not to seek the light, but to overcome or conquer it.

In verse 6-9, we are introduced to John the Baptist who was sent from God to prepare the way for the Light. He

came for witness or testimony, which is a leading emphasis of this Gospel. His commission was to witness to the light, which has been shining ever since the Creation and was about to enlighten men with His presence. The witness was designed to cause men to believe.

John 1:14 reads, "And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth." (KJV) "God revealed Himself through the Son in human form, which was not mere semblance, but flesh. John could have said, 'man' but he chose to state the truth of the incarnation emphatically so as to contradict those with Gnostic tendencies. This false view of Christ refused to acknowledge that pure deity could take a material body, since matter was regarded as something evil. "(cf 1 Jn. 4:2, 3; II Jn; 7) (The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, pp 1073-1074).

Verse 15 refers to John the Baptist's testimony in light of Jesus' public appearance. Jesus came after John in time, but went before him in importance, even as He was before him as the Eternal One. In verses 16-17, the writer says "And of His full-ness have we all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."(KJV) As Jesus Christ surpassed John, so does He excel Moses? Both brought something from God, but the one brought the law which condemns, the other grace which redeems from the law. John clearly pointed out that the Word who was God in His reincarnate state (V.1) retained and maintained His fullness of deity and divine glory during His incarnate state. In the incarnation, the Word did not detach Himself from what He eternally is. There is no emptying of the Word in the incarnation but a divine filling.

Lofton is a member of Willow Grove Church, Collins.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When Life Turns Upside Down

Esther 1:1-2:23

#### By Tim Alexander

Only two books of the Bible are named for women, Ruth and Esther. The next four weeks we will examine the book of Esther. First, we will look at the king. Ahasuerus was his Hebrew names. (Xerxes was his Greek name). His father was Darious I, and his grandfather was Cyrus the Great. This king had a regal bloodline. King Ahasuerus ruled the Persian Empire from 486 to 465B.C. The setting for this book is the king's palace at Susa, Persia.

Ruler for the East hosted extravagant banquets. Each banquet provided a great opportunity for him to influence his friends and impress his VIP's and common people in his royal palace. He could also flaunt his great power. Three banquets are mentioned in Esther chapter one. Queen

Vashti was presiding over one of these banquets. The king chose who would attend the lavish banquet. He would have his provincial leader come when the time was right. Along with the banquets, week long feasts were also mentioned in this book. When the queen said no to the king's request, she lost her title and her position. The king began the search for a new queen.

Some of the key persons of this book are the king Ahasuerus, Esther, Mordecai, Esther's cousin, and Hamon. Esther was a young Jewish woman who was told not to reveal her family history. Esther was born and lived for "such a time as this."

1. Accept Unavoidable Changes, (Esther

Mordecai was a lew who had a strong faith. He was also taken captive by the Babyloníans. family, Kish, was also listed among the Jews in taken

Alexander Babylonian captivity. He lived at the king's palace. The Babylonians made life unpleasant for the Jews. On the other hand, the Persians were accepting of the Jews and gave them more freedom. Mordecai had a unique and special relationship with Esther, whose name means "star". Her Hebrew name was Hadassah. Mordecai was Esther's cousin but he was her legal guardian after her parents died. You could call Esther Mordecai's adopted daughter. Esther was a beautiful daughter who was a part of the king's harem. One must keep in mind that the people who lived in Susa did not know Esther and Mordecai were Jewish.

2. Adjust to New Challenges, (Easter 2:8-10)

Word spread like wildfire that the king was in search of a new queen. Many women came to the fortress of Susa to perhaps be selected as the new queen. Esther was one of these women who came to the fortress. Our God is at work, but we some times fail to see that. The Lord was at work with the keeper of the harem, Hegai. This Gentile harem keeper, played an important role in God's plan for the king's new queen. The beauty of Esther pleased the king. Hegai gave Esther special treatment, and he also provided for her maid as well. Upon the advice of Mordecai, Esther did not reveal her Jewish heritage. One of the reasons for Esther not to reveal her Jewish bloodline was that Hamen later tried to kill the Jews. Good advice is always priceless, and can sometimes save ones life, as in the case of Esther.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understandings, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will

make your paths straight." Sometimes our lives have a few curves in them, but God can make our paths straight. I am sure Esther was wondering what path God had her life on, but she remained true to her God.

3. Avail Yourself of Opportunities, (Esther 2:16-17, 21-23)

Esther had a natural beauty that shined brightly like a star! She impressed everyone who met her. The scripture says that the king loved Esther more than all of the other women. He placed a crown upon her head and pronounced her queen. Mordecai, who had the inside track to the fortress, heard through the grape vine of a possible assassination attempt on the king. Thankfully he foiled the plan when he revealed this plot to the new queen, who in turn told the king of this plot. Mordecai used his family ties to do a good work. As God used Esther, may He use you this week in your service to Him!

Alexander is Minister of Education, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

# Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The

Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles

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Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number. Photographs may be color or black and

white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, M\$ 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org. and all photographs are subject to crop- E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



#### HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES

ach January we evaluate the cash gifts during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of the designated cash gifts. This does not include noncash gift items or volunteer efforts that many churches contribute. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

K	CHURCH NAME	CITY:	2006 GIFTS
	Immanuel Baptist Church Morrison Heights Baptist Church Bunker Hill Baptist Church First Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$33,384.00
	Morrison Heights Baptist Church	Clinton	\$32,142.99
	First Baptist Church	Columbia Crystal Springs	\$28,139.31 \$22,329.86
	First Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$18,404.87
	Bel Aire Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$15,526.54
	First Baptist Church First Baptist Church	Clinton Corinth	\$14,957.61 \$13,758.50
	Brandon Baptist Church	Brandon	\$13,788.50 \$13,153.21 \$13,043.99 \$12,889.52 \$12,429.60 \$11,024.00 \$10,750.65 \$10,670.00 \$10,670.00
	First Baptist Church First Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$13,043.99
	First Baptist Church	Batesville	\$12,889.52
	First Baptist Church	Kosciusko Richton	\$12,429.00
	First Baptist Church	Madison	\$10,991.72
	Williamsville Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church Fredonia Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church Steep Hollow Baptist Church Briar Hill Baptist Church Cohene Bastist Church	New Albany	\$10,750.65
	First Baptist Church	Jackson	\$10,670.00
	Briar Hill Bantist Church	Poplarville Florence	\$10,604.97 \$10,449.31
	Calvary Baptist Church	Waynesboro Collins	\$10,202.00
	Calvary Baptist Church Leaf River Baptist Church First Baptist Church	Collins	\$9,545.00
	Harmony Bantiet Church	Sardis Crystal Springs	\$9,545.00 \$9,001.36 \$8,876.55
	First Baptist Church	Belzoni	\$8,792.44
	Harmony Baptist Church First Baptist Church Rienzi Baptist Church Trinity Baptist Church Calvary Baptist Church Walthall Baptist Church	Rienzi	\$8,792.44 \$8,722.62 \$8,518.30
	Trinity Baptist Church	Philadelphia Bogue Chitto Walthall	\$8,518.30 \$8,470.75
	Walthall Bantist Church	Walthall	\$8,431.00
	rine rorest baptist Chuich	Collinsville	\$8,431.00 \$8,402.56 \$8,339.64
	Seminary Baptist Church	Seminary	\$8,339.64
	First Baptist Church East Philadelphia Baptist Church	Biloxi Philadelphia	36.2/3./6
	Branch Baptist Church	Morton	\$8,019.60
	West Kemper Baptist Church Gaston Baptist Church First Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$8,000.00
	Gaston Baptist Church	Booneville	\$7,919.18
	Tonieny Bantiet Church	Yazoo City Bogue Chitto	\$7,879.58 \$7,860.48
	Topisaw Baptist Church Fellowship Baptist Church First Baptist Church Faith Baptist Church Rolling Creek Baptist Church First Baptist Church First Baptist Church	Meridian	\$7,771.67
	First Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$7,721.00
	Faith Baptist Church	Meridian	\$7,719.25
	Holling Creek Baptist Church	Quitman Louisville	\$7,695.88
	North Greenwood Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$7,673.58
	First Baptist Church	Union	\$7,625.00
	First Baptist Church	McComb	\$7,618.33
	Memorial Baptist Church	Richton Raleigh	\$7,394.08
	Sylvarena Baptist Church First Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$8,049,64 \$8,019.00 \$7,919,18 \$7,879,58 \$7,860,48 \$7,879,58 \$7,860,48 \$7,677,92 \$7,677,92 \$7,677,92 \$7,675,368 \$7,675,92 \$7,673,58 \$7,675,92 \$7,673,58 \$7,675,90 \$7,618,33 \$7,394,68 \$7,366,48 \$7,366,48 \$7,366,48 \$7,366,48 \$7,366,48 \$7,180,21 \$7,009,75,00 \$6,911,48 \$6,859,56 \$6,631,00
		Newton	\$7,160.21
	First Baptist Church First Baptist Church Oak Grove Baptist Church First Baptist Church Sand Hill Baptist Church	Laurel	\$7,009.73
	Oak Grove Bantist Church	Canton Mendenhall	\$6,975.00
	First Baptist Church	Booneville	\$6,859.56
	Sand Hill Baptist Church	Richton	\$6,675.00
		Vicksburg Abbeville	\$6,631.00 \$6,532.64 \$6,5385.00 \$6,375.00 \$6,360.00 \$6,360.00 \$6,286.00 \$6,224.19 \$6,156.79 \$6,126.30 \$6,004.87 \$5,972.45
	First Baptist Church Liberty Baptist Church Indian Springs Baptist Church Raymond Baptist Church Northwest Baptist Association Parkway Baptist Church Parkway Baptist Church First Baptist Church, Runnelstown First Baptist Church Indian Springs Baptist Church Wildwood Baptist Church Wildwood Baptist Church Mount Zion Baptist Church Unity Baptist Church Old Silver Creek Baptist Church Highland Baptist Church First Baptist Church	Liberty	\$6,538.57
	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Petal	\$6,385.00
	Raymond Baptist Church	Raymond	\$6,375.00
	Parkway Rentiet Church	Hernando Clinton	\$6,350.00
	Parkway Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$6,286.00
	First Baptist Church, Runnelstown	Kosciusko Petal	\$6,224.19
	First Baptist Church	Greenville Laurel	\$6,156.79
	Trinity First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$6,004.87
	Wildwood Baptist Church	Clinton	\$5,972.45
	Mount Zion Baptist Church-Tate	Independence Prentiss	\$5,944.43
	Unity Baptist Church	Harrisville	\$5,934.00
	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$5,818.91
	Highland Baptist Church	Silver Creek Vicksburg	\$5,756.96
	First Baptist Church	Starkville	\$5,944.43 \$5,934.00 \$5,842.46 \$5,818.91 \$5,756.96 \$5,716.58
	Spring Creek Baptist Church	Picayune Philadelphia Port Gibson	\$5,544.21 \$5,530.35
	Shiloh Baptist Church	Port Gibson	
	First Baptist Church	Quitman	\$5,520.00
	Springfield Baptist Church	Morton	\$5,520.00 \$5,493.95
	Bucatunna Baptist Church	Meridian	\$5,380.18
	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church	Morton Mendenhall Meridian Sandy Hook Vaiden	\$5,380.18 \$5,268.57 \$5,261.84 \$5,249.00 \$5,115.00 \$5,100.10 \$5,044.00 \$5,040.52
	Valden Baptist Church		\$5,261.84
	Crossview Baptist Church	Forest Brandon	\$5,115,00
	First Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$5,100.10
	Ackerman Baptist Church	Brookhaven Ackerman	\$5,044.00
	Topoka Bentist Church	Carthage	\$5,040.52 \$5,006.47
	Eastwood Baptist Church	Jayess Monroeville	\$5,000.47
	First Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$4,955.24
	First Baptist Church	Eupora	\$4,949.96
	Mandville Bantist Church	Carrollton Meadville	\$4,866.03
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	First Baptist Church	Brandon	\$4,812.93

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Osyka

McComb

McComb

Brookhaven

Gulfport

Coldwater

Shubuta

Byhalia

Prentiss

Clinton

Weir

French Camp

Bruce

Pearl

Carthage

Ecru

Tupelo

Picayune

Senatobia

Bogue Chitto

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Brookhaven

Picayune

Greenwood

Batesville

Decatur

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